

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT**

TO: DesignCrowd.com
DesignCrowd Pty Ltd.
4,2 Hill Street, Surry Hills
NSW 2011, Australia

Webhost: Instra Corporation Pty, Ltd.
Level 2, 222 Beach Road
Mordialloc
Victoria, Australia 3195

**DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER
(Violation of Financial Code section 17200)**

The Commissioner of Business Oversight finds that:

1. At all relevant times herein, DesignCrowd.com (DesignCrowd) is an entity of indeterminate origin with its principal place of business at 4,2 Hill Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2011, Australia.
2. At all relevant times herein, DesignCrowd Pty Ltd. (DPL), is an Australian proprietary limited company that is the registrant of DesignCrowd.com and has its principal place of business at 4,2 Hill Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2011, Australia.
3. At all relevant times herein, DesignCrowd.com is a website hosted by Instra Corporation Pty, Ltd.
4. DesignCrowd and DPL engage in the business of an escrow agent over the Internet at <http://DesignCrowd.com> by offering its services through the following process:
 - (a) A buyer posts a project to DesignCrowd.com and pays for the project through DesignCrowd so that designers can begin working on buyer's designs.
 - (b) The buyer's payments to DesignCrowd are accepted through Credit Card, Paypal or Skrill. DesignCrowd will hold the payment on behalf of the buyer until the buyer is satisfied with the designer's work.

(c) DesignCrowd represents on its website that by paying DesignCrowd and not the designer directly, the buyer is protected, and the designers can be assured that they will get paid.

5. The Commissioner of Business Oversight has not issued a license to either DesignCrowd or DPL to conduct business as an escrow agent, as required under Financial Code section 17200.

Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner of Business Oversight is of the opinion that DesignCrowd.com and DesignCrowd Pty Ltd. are engaged in the business of an escrow agent without obtaining a license from the Commissioner of Business Oversight, in violation of Financial Code section 17200.

Pursuant to Financial Code section 17416, DesignCrowd.com and DesignCrowd Pty Ltd. are ordered to desist and refrain from engaging in the business of receiving escrows for deposit or delivery without first obtaining a license from the Commissioner of Business Oversight.

This Order is necessary, in the public interest, and consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the Escrow Law.

Dated: June 12, 2018
Los Angeles, California

JAN LYNN OWEN
Commissioner of Business Oversight

By _____
MARY ANN SMITH
Deputy Commissioner
Enforcement Division